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UP A DOCKET ROOM
January 9, 2004

Joelle J. Phillips
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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Ron Jones
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Director Jones:

BellSouth provides this update regarding the status of continuing negotiations in the above-referenced docket. In light of holiday schedules, BellSouth has not been able to confer with other parties to prepare a joint update as we have previously done. However, BellSouth and the Rural Coalition have a meeting scheduled for January 14, 2004, and BellSouth proposes to provide the Hearing Officer with a further update following that meeting.

A copy of this letter is being provided to counsel of record.

Cordially,


Joelle Phillips
w/permission


JJP:ch

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 9, 2004, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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